

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00166 01 OF 02 021128Z
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
-----021150Z 032242 /10

R 021008Z APR 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2064
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0166

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MARCH 28-APRIL 3

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE MARCH 29 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE
VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, WESTERN REPS REJECTED
THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO FREEZE MILITARY MANPOWER BASED ON
DATA TABLED BY EACH SIDE FOR ITS FORCES IN THE AREA OF
REDUCTIONS. A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FAILED TO SHED ANY NEW LIGHT ON POSSIBLE SOURCES OF THE
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00166 01 OF 02 021128Z

DISCREPANCY BETWEEN FIGURES PUT DOWN BY THE EAST FOR
WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER AND NATO ESTIMATES. A GDR
STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE MARCH 31 PLENARY MEETING INCLUDED
THE FIRST EASTERN REFERENCE IN THAT MORE OFFICIAL FORUM TO
THE EAST'S PROPOSAL THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TABLE
SIMULTANEOUSLY SEPARATE DATA ON THEIR FORCES. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE MARCH 29 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, WESTERN REPS RESTATED THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH A FREEZE BASED, AS THE EAST HAS NOW PROPOSED, ON DATA WHICH EACH SIDE HAS TABLED FOR ITS MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA WOULD BE UNWORKABLE AND A CONTINUING SOURCE OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONTENTION GIVEN THE CURRENT ACTIVE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST OVER THAT DATA. WESTERN REPS NOTED THAT THE FREEZE PROPOSED BY THE WEST WOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF AN AGREEMENT TO REACH MANPOWER PARITY AND WOULD CONFORM WITH THE AGREED GOALS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. EASTERN REPS URGED WESTERN REPS TO CONSIDER THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FURTHER. THEY OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD PLACE A TOTAL CEILING OF 987,300 MEN ON THE FORCES OF EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND ONE OF 921,000 MEN ON THE FORCES OF WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND THAT AGREEMENT TO SUCH A FREEZE WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. (COMMENT: EASTERN FORMULATIONS, WHICH DREW ON OVERALL MANPOWER TOTALS TABLED BY EACH SIDE, COULD INDICATE AN EASTERN DESIRE TO HINT THAT IF ACCEPTED, THE EASTERN FREEZE WOULD BE COLLECTIVE ALTHOUGH NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS WERE NOT OF COURSE, ALSO EXCLUDED. END COMMENT.)

3. THERE WAS A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AT THE MARCH 29 INFORMAL SESSION REGARDING THE FIGURES EACH SIDE HAD PROVIDED FOR ITS MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA. NO NEW LIGHT WAS SHED ON POSSIBLE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN DATA SUPPLIED BY THE EAST AND NATO ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT TROOP
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SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00166 01 OF 02 021128Z

STRENGTH. WESTERN REPS REJECTED THE EASTERN CONCEPT THAT DATA TABLED BY THE EAST SHOULD BE ACCEPTED BECAUSE IT WAS STATED TO BE QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE RIGHT OF THE WEST TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN DATA, EASTERN REPS AGAIN COMPLAINED THAT THE WESTERN METHOD OF CONDUCTING THE DATA INQUIRY WAS DRAGGING OUT THE PROCEEDINGS. EASTERN REPS SAID IT WAS NOT UP TO THE EAST TO PRODUCE CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF THE ACCURACY OF ITS FIGURES OR THE INACCURACY OF WESTERN ESTIMATES, BUT THAT THE BURDEN OF PROOF WAS, RATHER, ON WESTERN REPS SHOULD THEY BELIEVE THERE WERE GROUNDS FOR CHALLENGING THE CORRECTNESS OF EASTERN DATA FOR WARSAW PACT FORCES.

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00166 02 OF 02 021142Z
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R 021008Z APR 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0166

FROM US REP MBFR

4. GDR DEPREP MADE THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 31
PLENARY MEETING. HIS FIRMLY WORDED PRESENTATION ALLEGED THE
WESTERN POSITION WAS IN OPEN CONTRADICTION TO THE AGREED
GOALS, PRINCIPLES AND SUBJECT MATTER OF THE TALKS, CALLED
UPON THE WEST TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE EAST'S FEBRUARY
1976 PROPOSAL, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR GUARANTEES REGARDING
THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN SECOND
STAGE REDUCTIONS. IT ALSO INCLUDED THE FIRST REFERENCE IN AN
EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT TO THE EAST'S PROPOSAL THAT NATIONAL
DATA BE TABLED SIMULTANEOUSLY FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT'S
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00166 02 OF 02 021142Z

MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS.

5. ON MARCH 30, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED IN GENERAL TERMS THE
OUTLINE TO BE USED BY BELGIAN REP SMOLDEREN IN MAKING THE NEXT
REGULAR ORAL REPORT TO THE NAC ON APRIL 1. THE OUTLINE REAFFIRMED
THE JUDGMENT, CONTAINED IN A SPECIAL AD HOC GROUP WRITTEN REPORT
TO THE NAC OF MARCH 23, TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE

LIKELIHOOD THAT THE EAST WOULD REVERSE ITS REJECTION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL THAT THE NEXT STEP IN THE DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES AND DATA SHOULD BE THE TABLING OF RELEVANT MANPOWER DATA FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES ONLY. BELGIAN REP'S OUTLINE WENT ON TO MAKE THE RELATED POINT THAT, IN ORDER TO PRESS THE WEST'S SEARCH FOR THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FIGURES ON WARSAW PACT FORCES, THE NEED REMAINED, NONETHELESS, TO MAKE THE DATA DISCUSSION MORE SPECIFIC. RESOR

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